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ZOOLOGY.

FLIGHT OF VANESSA ANTIOPA, FEB. 16th.—This afternoon one of our visitors saw a butterfly fluttering in the air. In a few moments it lit on the snow, and he, going to it, found it chilled, and brought it to me. The specimen answers in appearance to *Vanessa Antiopa*. The insect has been flying about a warm room this afternoon.

Considering the intensity of the cold for the past six weeks, and the fact that even to-day the thermometer has not marked 26°, and not a suspicion of dripping even on the south side of the house, I have considered the incident worth relating to you.—E. LEWIS STURTEVANT, *So. Framingham, Mass., Feb. 16, 1875.*

SNAILS IN WINTER.—S. Clessin describes the habits of snails during the winter, their burying in the ground, often in crowds, the formation of the epiphragm, the interruption in the growth of the shell, etc. He thinks that slugs and fresh-water snails are less sensible to the influence of season, hiding themselves later in autumn, and coming forth earlier in spring than *Helix* and that young specimens are less sensible than older ones. C. B. VerRegensb (xxxi, pp. 114–130).—*Zoological Record for 1872.*

FILARIA IN THE HOUSE FLY.—Prof. Leidy has recently found that the common house fly is afflicted by a thread worm, about a line in length, which takes up its abode in the proboscis of the fly. From one to three worms occurred in about one fly in five. This parasite was first discovered in the house fly of India, by Carter, who described it under the name of *Filaria muscæ*, and suggested that it might be the source of the Guinea-worm in man.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

THE MUSK SHEEP FOSSIL IN SILESIA.—According to Herr F. Römer, of Breslau, the skull of the musk sheep (*Ovibos moschatus*), the most Arctic herbivorous mammal, has been detected among fossils from the Pleistocene loams of Silesia. The discovery is of some interest, in consequence of the limited occurrence of this species in Germany, three localities only having hitherto yielded its remains.—*Academy.*